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OO RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM RUEHNH
DE RUEHKL #0224 0902343

ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 302343Z MAR 08

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0762
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY 0009
RUEHOU/AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU PRIORITY 0019
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 0053
RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0226
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 0008
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1060
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0017
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 000224

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

FOR EUR/SCE AND EAP/MTS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/29/2018
TAGS: PREL PGOV UN UNMIK EU MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIA NOT READY YET TO FORMALLY RECOGNIZE KOSOVO

REF: A. STATE 30452
1B. KUALA LUMPUR 142
1C. KUALA LUMPUR 121
1D. KUALA LUMPUR 111

Classified By: Political Section Chief Mark D. Clark, reason 1.4 (b and d).

1. (C) With the unavailability of more senior Malaysian officials, Political Section Chief delivered ref A demarche on March 27 to Principal Assistant Secretary Zakhir, who is currently responsible for Kosovo issues in the Foreign Ministry's European Division. Zakhir responded that the Malaysian government had not moved forward yet with formal recognition of Kosovo and that this step would require a decision by the Cabinet, which the Prime Minister has only recently formed following Malaysia's March 8 elections. The new Foreign Minister Rais Yatim had not yet examined the Kosovo issue. In the meantime, Malaysian officials continued to monitor closely the "situation in Belgrade," which would weigh heavily on Malaysia's decision to extend formal recognition, Zakhir implied. Zakhir downplayed the significance of the OIC Summit in Dakar in relation to supporting Kosovo's independence.

1. (SBU) Post will continue to seek opportunities with senior Malaysian officials to urge Malaysia's formal recognition of Kosovo's independence.

KEITH